



The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 749—8th September 2023

INSIDE THIS WEEK... Y4 German, YPSSC latest...Capital developments... Start of term science...

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to our first edition of the Phoenix Flier for the academic year 2023/24! I hope that the summer months allowed for quality time with family members and loved ones for you all. It has been a truly wonderful start to the new year since we returned on Thursday last week. Energy and enthusiasm has filled the school once again as new year groups, classrooms and friendships have burst into life. The dawn of the school year is always an exciting time for any school community. It brings with it the promise of adventure, fresh opportunities and new routines. I am sure that many of us are still getting to grips with these and that is completely natural. As a parent, I am too! Rest assured, we are committed to working in partnership with you and through the range of information events this week and all school staff being available to pick up on any concerns or queries you have, I am sure we will all move forward positively. We are very much 'in it together' and all the better for it.

I am grateful to our dedicated Estates department, Administrative team and wider support staff who have ensured that the school was ready for our return last week. Over the summer months, aside from the capital development works, there has been much happening. Our IT systems have been overhauled, buildings have been redecorated and modernised, classrooms relocated, routine maintenance attended to and health and safety checks carried out. The school is never quiet, even when the pupils' voices cannot be heard. We certainly wouldn't be able to keep our wheels turning without the help of all members of the team here at Yarm.

Bill Sawyer



Photo of the Week: Mrs Arrol launched our exciting new languages programme—WoLLoW—this week, with the help of Upper Sixth student (and former Prep Head Girl!) Kitty!

Year 4 Languages

To launch the start of German sessions Kitty Brown, a 6th form student from the Senior School came and spoke to the children about her passion for German. She taught them about a tradition in Germany dating back to the 1900's where the children are given a school cone or Schultüte for the beginning of the new school year. Traditionally this cone is filled with new stationery, sweets and other little gifts as a special treat for the start of the new school year. The children made their own Schultüte and Kitty provided little treats she brought back from Germany.

Mrs Arrol



WoLloW



This week has seen the launch of our WoLloW lessons. We have been looking at why the hippopotamus is a symbol of these lessons. Year 5 have created papier mache symbols for their classrooms while Year 6 have explained this in writing. We have all enjoyed singing "Mud, mud, glorious mud" The children will explain why!

Mrs Arrol

William the hippopotamus is the symbol for WoLloW (which stands for world of languages, languages of the world). There is a play on words because hippopotami like to wallow in the mud. In Ancient Egypt, hippopotami were a symbol of reclamation. Lotus flowers are on his body because they close every evening and they open every morning. They represent the eternal cycle of rebirth. It is also thought that this relates to the fact that languages are constantly changing.



PE and Games News

We have enjoyed a positive start to the year with all throwing themselves into the sessions. Girls have begun their games lessons with hockey and boys with rugby, and this will remain the main sport for this term. All year groups will have chance to travel to other schools and host with hockey workshops for Year 3 and fixtures for Year 4, 5 and 6. All fixtures can be found on the SOCS website.

A reminder that girls need mouth guards and shin pads for all hockey sessions.

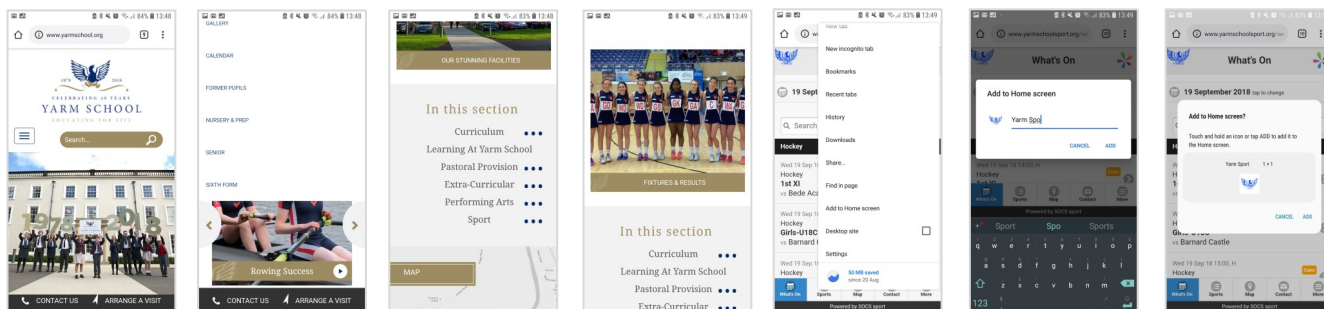
Mrs Redhead Sweeney and Mr Underwood



How to set up Fixtures Pro on your Smartphone

It's how to find details of sports fixtures and team line-ups for the Prep School. It is also very easy to set up on your Apple or Android device. Please follow these instructions.

FOR ANDROID DEVICES:



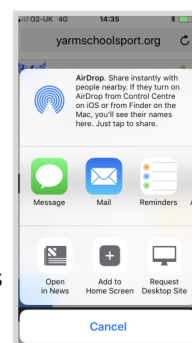
1. Access the Yarm School website via the browser on your device.
2. Click on 'Senior School' at the top of the page.
3. Click on 'Sport' which appears down the left-hand side.
4. Click on 'Fixtures and Results'.
5. In the top-right corner of the browser, click on the three dots, then click on 'Add to Home screen'.
6. Give the link a name.
7. Add to your phone home screen.

FOR APPLE DEVICES:

Follow steps 1-4 above, then:

5) At the bottom of your phones screen drag your finger up and you have a square and arrow icon (photo left) and if you click this you can then see the icon that says 'Add to home screen'. Click this.

6) Congratulations! You are all set and on your phone screen you should see the Yarm School logo which is now your very own shortcut to team sheets etc.



Science this week



Y4 created a model of the digestive system - having had Weetabix and banana for breakfast!



Meanwhile, Year have been making skeleton pictures with pasta and dog biscuits!

Mrs Smith



Summer Holiday School



Holiday School Dates

October half-term 2023: 23rd to 27th
October (5 days)

Christmas 2023: 18th to 21st
December (4 days)

Easter 2024: 2nd to 5th April (4 days)

Summer 2024: 15th July to 2nd
August (15 days)

Message to Parents

The schools Capital Development Manager, Mr Alan Hodgson, would like to reassure the school community that Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) has not been used for the construction of any of its school buildings; Nursery, Pre Prep, Preparatory and Senior school sites.

Parent Handbooks

You can access the parent handbooks on the school website [by clicking here](#). At various points over the coming weeks, we will post some reminders and key pieces of information from the handbook.

Music Lessons

If your child is in Years 3-6 and is interested in taking part in individual peripatetic music lessons, [please fill in this form and Mr Gooding will get back to you](#).

Contact Details

Please don't forget to inform the school office of any changes to your contact details, namely mobile number, address or email address so that we can contact you in the event of an emergency.

Mrs White

Capital Development Update

We returned from the summer break to see the evident progress of our Prep Development project over the summer. This new facility will deliver first rate



accommodation

which will include a new performance venue, library and flexible learning facilities, kitchens and dining space, alongside three classrooms and a reception area.

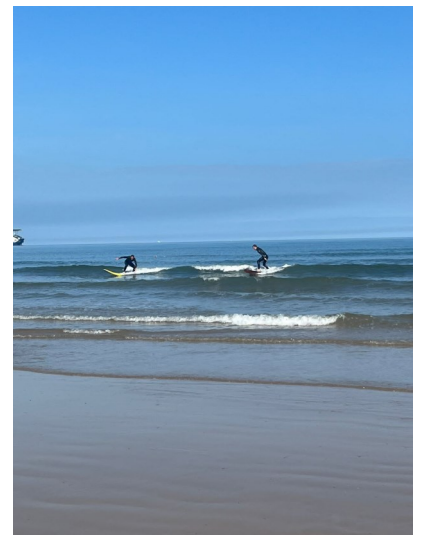


As you can see from the photos a great deal has been achieved in recent weeks. The target date for completion of the build and being able to use the new facility remains the second half of this term. We are pushing hard to make this a reality but will not be able to adopt the building until such time that it is safe and ready to do so.

Mr Sawyer

In the surf & on the turf

Our Prep Winter Ball, organised by the YPSSC, has been a long standing event in our calendar for many years. It is always a wonderful community affair which, aside from giving everyone there a brilliant evening, raises valuable money for local causes through the charity auction and raffle. Last year was no different and through the generosity of our community a significant sum was donated to the David Ashwell Foundation. The range of auction lots garnered healthy bids from those present, the 'Surf nTurf Adventure' being a particular highlight which was eventually secured by a combined bid from Don Axtell, Joe Fraser, David Baggaley, Dean Tate, Alistair Burnett, Ash Vaughan and Anthony Fiske.



Last weekend saw the realisation of this experience as David Baggaley took to the local trails and waves in true adventurous spirit under the guidance of Head of Prep, Bill Sawyer. Clear skies and moderate surf allowed for a good morning session during which time David made excellent progress popping up on and riding numerous waves. He even managed to demonstrate his skills to the Fraser family who came down to lend their encouragement and support! Heading in from the water there was a quick change of attire before bounding along the Saltburn cliffs towards Skinningrove for a 10km loop which afforded fabulous views of the local area. On their return, a well deserved lunch of fish chips and a 'cold one' went down a treat. Well done to David and thank you again to all who bid for the 'Surf nTurf Adventure'.



Hello from the YPSSC

(Yarm Prep School Social Committee)

The YPSSC is made up and run by parent volunteers, like a PTA, our function is to provide a social network for the whole school community and raise funds for the children and local charities.



We are using Classlist!! An amazing app that keeps all events and info in one simple app. Get the app to never miss an event



Dates for the diary – tickets available via Classlist
Friday 8th September *New Families Welcome Event*
Friday 29th September *Oktoberfest @ PAA*
Saturday 25th November *Winter Ball*

Coffee mornings

A chance to relax and meet other parents and catch up with what events are coming up

Thursday 21st September 9-11am

Thursday 12th October 9-11am

Wednesday 15th November 9-11am

Monday 11th December 9-11am

Drinks evening

Thursday 12th October 7.30-9.30pm

**@ The Keys, 65 High Street Yarm
TS15 9BH**

Class reps

Each class has a parent rep who is a great 'go to'. Your class rep can be found on the Classlist app.

PreLoved Uniform

As an Eco School we are very keen on preloved uniform and have a good and varied stock.

Just drop us a message on the app and we'll see what we have.

Donations are ALWAYS welcome- we can find homes for clean items in good condition

Tooled Up Education

We hope that you have had a wonderful summer break and that you are settling well into the new school term.

We would like to remind you that this is a 'Tooled Up School' and that the Tooled Up team is here to support you throughout the coming academic year and that you will continue to have unlimited access to the digital library of evidence-based tips and resources.

We are excited to announce that booking is now open for our September member only webinars, and would like to invite you to [book your free tickets now!](#)

Here's what is coming up – we really hope to see you there!

Benefits of being a Tooled Up Parent

Tooled Up founder, Dr Kathy Weston, shares how you can make the most of being a Tooled Up parent in a 'Tooled Up School'. What are the benefits? How can you use our service to best effect? What does your school subscription offer you? How can our research team support you? Tune in to find out!

Wednesday 13th September, 8.00pm

Starting School: Hitting the Ground Running (All Ages)

In this 30 minute webinar Dr Weston shares some #TooledUpTips to help parents support their children at the start of the school term.

Thursday 14th September, 8.00pm

We hope to see you there with the rest of the Tooled Up parent community and we look forward to answering any questions that you may have in the Q and A.

The Tooled Up library is already packed with almost 350 evidence-based resources, including interviews with over 80 leading experts from around the world. But, it's your library and we want to know how else we can help you? What new resources would you like to see? Which ones do you love? What could we do better?

We always value your feedback and want to ensure that we are giving you the resources that you need. Email us at research@tooledupeducation.com to let us know how we are doing!

A quick reminder As a parent at a Tooled Up school, you have full unlimited access to the Tooled Up library. If you have not created your account yet, click [here to register for an account](#). It takes less than 2 minutes to enter your details and unique school PIN: YPS1103 and if you need assistance, we are always happy to help at support@tooledupeducation.com. If you already have an account and you have forgotten your password, then simply click on any of the resource links above, click "Lost your password" and follow the instructions.

Dr Kathy Weston

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BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content: usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history: so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

18 Advice for Parents & Carers

Advice for Parents & Carers

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake – but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have hesitated to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.

Cayley Jorgensen is a Registered Counsellor with The Health Professions Council of South Africa, and she runs a private practice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. Her main focus is creating awareness and educating the community on the mental health pressures of today's world, as well as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.



Sources: <https://www.educatorw.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/bullyingprograms/inappropriate.pdf> | <https://www.wednet.gov.au/educators/training-professionals/professional-learning-program-teaching-inappropriate-content-factsheet> | <https://www.wednet.gov.au/edu-we-consent/uploads/2021/04/childrens-media-lives-year-7.pdf>

Coming Up

[You can find the Yarm School calendar by clicking here](#)

SEPTEMBER 2023

Mon 11	Lesson 6 Activities begin Y3 Swimming begins (Arkwright/Brunel) Prep Safety Week
Tue 12	Year 4 visit Yorkshire Sculpture Park (4.30pm return)
Wed 13	6W visit Boggle Hole (4.45pm return) Y5 Robinwood—Zoom meeting for parents
Thu 14	6L visit Boggle Hole (4.45pm return)
Fri 15	6H visit Boggle Hole (4.45pm return) Senior School Prize Giving Please note: Senior car park will be out of use
Tue 19	U8 Hockey with Queen Mary's (away; 2pm start, 4pm return) Parent Q&A webinars (9am, 6pm)
Wed 20	Year 5 Robinwood residential
Thu 21	Year 1 visit Hartlepool Art Gallery
Fri 22	Year 5 return from Robinwood (4.30pm) U11 Girls' Hockey v Durham (home; 2.15pm start) U11 Rugby v St Peter's (home; 2pm start)
Sat 23	Stokesley Show U10 Clegg Cup Rugby (Barnard Castle)
Tue 26	Staff professional development No clubs run by teachers today
Wed 27	Staff professional development No clubs run by teachers today
Thu 28	Year 2 trip to Great North Museum U9 Hockey & Rugby v Dame Allan's (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)

Term Dates

Autumn Term, 2023

Preparation Days	Tuesday, 29th August 2023 Wednesday, 30th August 2023
All Pupils Return	Thursday, 31st August 2023
Half Term Begins	Friday, 20th October 2023 (after school)
Pupils Return	Monday, 6th November 2023

Form Captains—Autumn 2023

	Captain	Vice-Captain
3H	Rosie Lowe	William Davies
3J	Edward Williams	Edie Thompson
3P	Zoeya Altaf	Louis Guan
4F	Alice Jiang	Robert Wormald
4J	Harriet Arnold	Jude Cardwell
4S	Wilbur MacGregor-Smith	Sia Sidaginamale
5G	Meadow Emadi	Max Jolly
5H	Martha Leary	Elliott Edgar
5K	Sophia Bundhoo	Cooper Willis
6H	Ella Leadbitter	Kavan Sidhu
6L	Brian Franks	Lolwa Soliman
6W	Olivia Groves	Aphelia Stasinski
Ark	Florence Athey	William Lawson
Bru	Rex White	Maisie Shuttleworth
Ste	Georgie Wood	Samuel Isukapatla
Tel	Eric Pinedo Fuentes	Heidi Kingsbury

Finish Friday, 15th December 2023
(after school; no after school care)

Spring Term 2023

Pupils Return Thursday 4th January 2024
Half Term Begins Thursday 15th February 2024
(after school)
INSET Friday 16th February 2024
Pupils Return Monday 26th February 2024
Finish Thursday 28th March 2024
(after school; no after school care)

Summer Term 2024

Pupils Return Thursday 18th April 2024
Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024
Half Term Begins Thursday 23rd May 2024
(after school)
Pupils Return Monday 3rd June 2024
Finish Thursday 4th July 2024
At 12 noon
(after school; no after school care)